

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs  
South Dakota Department of the Military



## VABHHCS SEEKS COMPASSIONATE CAREGIVERS FOR THE MEDICAL FOSTER HOME PROGRAM

The VABHHCS is seeking individuals who may be interested in becoming a VA Medical Foster Home in western South Dakota. A Medical Foster Home is an adult foster home supported by a VA healthcare team to provide non-institutional long-term care for veterans who are unable to live independently and prefer a family setting. The caregiver provides 24-hour supervision and personal assistance to the veteran in his or her home while the VA meets the veteran's medical needs through comprehensive home-based primary care. An interdisciplinary team and program coordinator are involved to provide additional services to the veteran, and support and education to the caregiver.

"We are looking for individuals who have either formal or informal experience with patient care, be physically able to provide needed care, and a willingness to partner with the VA in the veteran's treatment plan," said Galen Britain, Medical Foster Home Coordinator. "Everyone benefits from this program; the veteran is able to remain in a caring home-setting, caregivers earn money to work from home, and the program is a cost-effective alternative to institutional care." Perhaps the greatest reward for caregivers is the experience of giving back to one of America's heroes.

The caregivers are paid directly by the veteran or through other resources that may be available to qualifying veterans. VABHHCS provides the medical care, medication management, and caregiver training and support. To achieve the most favorable therapeutic outcomes, several factors go into facilitating the right match between caregiver and veteran. A range of physical, social, and emotional needs are considered when placing a veteran in the right home setting. The veteran must meet eligibility criteria for placement in a Medical Foster Home and prefer a home to other settings.

To learn more about the Medical Foster Home program and becoming a caregiver please contact Galen Britain at 605-745-2000 extension 2347.

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## 2018 SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 93rd Session of the South Dakota Legislature will convene at approximately 1:00 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2018, with Governor Dugaard's State of the State Address. This year's session is scheduled for 38 legislative days, with the main run concluding March 9. March 26 is reserved for considering gubernatorial vetoes.

Legislative Research Council's website can be viewed at:

<http://sdlegislature.gov/>

Legislative bills can be viewed at:

[http://sdlegislature.gov/Legislative\\_Session/Bills/Default.aspx?Session=2018](http://sdlegislature.gov/Legislative_Session/Bills/Default.aspx?Session=2018)

The legislative calendar can be found at:

<http://sdlegislature.gov/docs/legsession/2018/calendar.pdf>

There are 105 legislators—35 in the Senate (29 republicans; 6 democrats) and 70 in the House of Representatives (60 republicans; 10 democrats). Length of Service: Each of these legislators may have served prior terms or previously in the other body. The term limits apply strictly to their current seats.

4th term – 9 legislators (4 Senators; 5 Representatives) see below on term limits

3rd term – 23 legislators (6 Senators; 17 Representatives)

2nd term – 22 legislators (8 Senators; 14 Representatives)

1st term – 48 legislators (17 Senators; 31 Representatives)

Note: At the start of the 2017 Session, there were 29 legislators with no previous experience and 76 that were re-elected, switched to the other chamber or had served previously.

Note also: Two legislators are serving partial terms and were appointed by Governor Dugaard – one to replace a legislator who resigned during the last session and one who resigned after the session was completed.

Governor Dugaard has not filled the seat that was held by Representative Tieszen.

The 2018 legislative session will be the final session for five members of the House of Representatives (Conzet, Hawley, Rozum, Schaefer, and Tulson) and four members of the Senate (Frerichs, Peters, Sutton, and Tidemann). Elected to these seats in 2010; and reelected in 2012-2016, each of these individuals has served the full four terms (8 sessions) allowed under South Dakota term limits.





## WORKSHOP: RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS

January 31, 2018 | 8:00am – 4:30pm  
Holiday Inn - Rushmore Plaza | Rapid City, South Dakota

Join the South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition for this **FREE** one-day, hands-on workshop where you will learn about the residential construction process on South Dakota's Indian reservations.

### Tapping into or expanding in a unique market...

If you are a general contractor or subcontractor that is already doing business or wants to do business on an Indian reservation in South Dakota, you won't want to miss this information-packed event. At the end of this workshop, you will:

- Understand eligibility requirements for contractors to participate in residential construction and rehab projects using HUD, VA, and USDA home loan programs;
- Have the opportunity to complete the required paperwork to become a VA- and HUD-approved builder;
- Become familiar with the residential real estate construction process on South Dakota's Indian reservations; and
- Know about resources available for emerging and established residential construction firms.

### Who should attend?

Any residential general contractor or subcontractor doing business on or planning to do business on an Indian reservation in South Dakota, especially:

- Native American veteran contractors,
- Native American contractors, and
- Native veteran organizations supporting veteran-owned contractors

### Registration & Travel Scholarships

This workshop is free of charge, but advanced registration is required. There are also a limited number of travel scholarships available. To register and/or apply for travel scholarships, submit completed form according to instructions provided on the following page.

Once registrations are processed, you will receive a checklist of items to bring to the workshop.

### More Information

For questions or more information, please contact Joanna Donohoe by phone at 561-762-8237 or by email at [joanna.donohoe@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.donohoe@gmail.com).



## CUSTER COUNTY RECOGNIZES WWII VETERANS

Custer County VSO Jana Virtue had the distinct honor to recognize six Custer County World War II Veterans with a program and a meal at a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremony on December 7 at the Custer Senior Center.

Custer County VSO Jana Virtue recognized and honored this elite group. Veterans were presented the World War II Challenge Coin and a quilt of valor. The quilts were created by the Custer Peacemakers Quilt Guild. After the ceremony, the veterans and their guests were treated to a homemade Christmas dinner in a USSO Canteen setting.

As the veterans departed, they were handed gifts on behalf of the Veterans Service Organizations from the community to include ammo cans of chocolate "ammo", necessities items such as toothbrushes, and snacks which were common during their military time.

Virtue enjoyed not only the opportunity to make the presentations, but also to hear their stories first-hand.



## CHARLES MIX COUNTY RECOGNIZES WWII VETERANS

Charles Mix County VSO Todd Breen had the distinct honor to recognize Charles Mix County World War II Veterans with a programs in Wagner, Lake Andes, and Platte.



## JANS TO SERVE AS VSO FOR BEADLE AND SANBORN COUNTIES

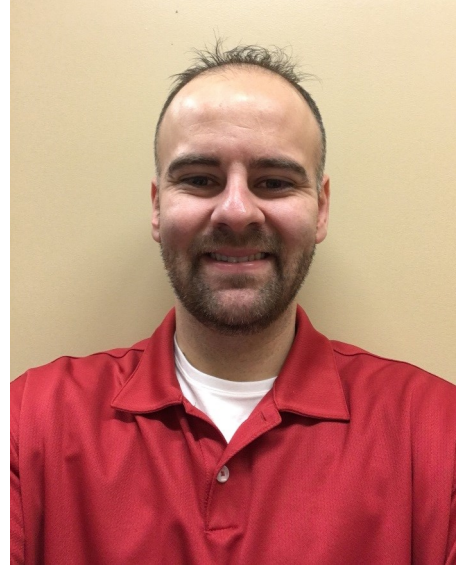
Taylor Jans has been named county veterans service officer for Beadle and Sanborn Counties. He replaces Mike Lueck.

Office hours for Beadle/Sanborn County remain 8:00 am—5:00 pm Monday—Friday. Taylor's email address is vet1@midco.net.

Taylor is originally from Willow Lake and obtained his undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University (GO JACKS!). After college (2009) Taylor began his military career with the South Dakota Army National Guard. He has drilled in a number of locations across the state from Brookings, Sioux Falls, Fort Meade, and currently with the 153<sup>rd</sup> EN BN in Huron.

Taylor moved to Huron in September 2014 where he took a position at Wells Fargo as a banker and moved into a manager role shortly after that.

Taylor and his wife Carey, who is a nurse supervisor at Huron Regional Medical Center, have three children.



## GOETTE RETIRES FROM ROBERTS COUNTY

Larry Goette, who has served as the Roberts County Veterans Service Officer since 1999, has decided to turn to the next chapter in life and begin retirement.

Larry is one of the few VSOs that have lived through hand-writing claims to VIMS to Vetra-Spec!!!!!! He has had the opportunity to serve with at least three SDDVA field officers.

Angela Beacom has been hired to replace Goette.

SDDVA wishes Larry the best in his retirement endeavors and thanks Larry for his dedication and service to South Dakota's heroes.





## PIERRE ELKS LODGE 1953 DELIVERS HOLIDAY GIFTS TO SOUTH DAKOTA HEROES

The Pierre Elks Lodge 1953, with the help of their partners, donated over \$37,000 worth of inventory to the veterans at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home and the VABHHCS facilities in Hot Springs.

The staff and heroes at the MJFSVH truly appreciate the Pierre Elks Lodge for their dedication and devotion to South Dakota's heroes and more importantly for the partnerships they built over the years in their communities to ensure a successful holiday for our heroes.

This is the 34th year that the Pierre Elks Lodge has spearheaded this project for our heroes in Hot Springs.

## MOBILE VET CENTERS TO VISIT SPINK AND BEADLE COUNTIES

Veterans and their families are invited to Veterans Outreach events in Spink and Beadle Counties.

Doug McCuddin of Sioux Falls and Jeff Gorr out of Rapid City, Outreach Specialists with the Vet Centers, will be on hand to provide **"Combat" Veterans** with information on Vet Center counseling services and referral materials to other VA and community agencies. They will be bringing their 38' Mobile Vet Center to meet in a confidential/private environment.

Logistics for the outreach events are as follows:

January 17—Spink County Courthouse in Redfield from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (CT).

January 18—Beadle County Courthouse in Huron from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (CT).



The Vet Center Program was established by Congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era vets were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of individual and group counseling, marriage and family counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life.

## BIG FOOT RIDE

These Veterans whose original plan was to go on the Big Foot Ride and enjoy themselves changed as the interest with youth grew. They now have eight youth they are caring for, teaching, and growing with on the ride.

Left to right in the photo are: Darren Wells, Afghanistan Veteran; Linus Grey Eagle, Vietnam Veteran; Damon Grey Eagle-Afghanistan/Iraq Veteran—five tours; and Russel Janis-Iraq Veteran (two tours).



# Upcoming Events

2018

Jan 1—State Offices Closed

Jan 9—Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)

Jan 10—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—RedRossa in Pierre—9:00 am (CT)

Jan 10—SDDVA/Veterans Council Legislative Reception—RedRossa in Pierre—5:00—8:00 pm (CT)

Jan 17—SD American Legion Legislative Reception—Post 8—Pierre—5:30 pm (CT)

Jan 17—Mobile Vet Centers—Spink County Courthouse—Redfield—9:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)

Jan 18—Mobile Vet Centers—Beadle County Courthouse—Huron—9:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)

Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre AmericInn

Jan 29—VFW Legislative Reception—AmericInn—Ft. Pierre—6:00 pm—7:30 pm (CT)

Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma

Feb 23-25 Vietnam Veterans & Era Reunion—Ramada Inn—Mitchell

Mar 4-8 National VFW Conference—Washington, DC

Apr 27-29—DAV State Convention—The Lodge—Deadwood

Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish

Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

Jul 14-17—DAV National Convention—Reno, NV

Jul 21-25—VFW National Convention—Kansas City, MO

Aug 20-24—SDDVA Benefits School—Ramkota—Pierre

Aug 20-24—American Legion National Convention—Minneapolis, MN

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer

South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605-773-8242

E-mail address: [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)

